

TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

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W. W. BOOTH, EDITOR AND MANAGER

510 REWARD

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ENGLAND THE ARROGANT

GRREAT BRITAIN is rapidly alienating the United States by her insolent disregard of the rights of others and by pursuing an obstinate adherence to policies that have been condemned repeatedly by this country. Like all other forms of protests, not much attention is paid to the letter writing proclivities of President Wilson and his able amanuensis, Secretary of State Lansing. There is apparently no reason why notice should be taken of the perennial protests against the policy of opening commercial, private and even official mail at the discretion of some jackanapes gifted with a little brief authority. The latest disclosure is the fact that mail plainly addressed to the United States Navy department has been violated with impunity, and no effort has been made to secure any reparation for the outrage. The British censor continues on the even course previously laid down by the British War office without giving the slightest heed to the numerous letters and protests from Washington, which probably find a convenient lodgment in a waste basket.

There is no longer any excuse for this perfidious course of treatment from a nation that has constantly professed the greatest friendship for the United States and for whose friendship this country has incurred the ill will of Germany and Austria. Congress has given the administration the weapon of embargo to exercise, but Congress was impotent to inject pepper enough in the system of the president to make the weapon effective. It takes a man to make war. The bally blusters and threatens and finally yields the right of way to his opponent. This is the course for which Wilson has shown a masterly aptitude. When it comes to England or any other nation stopping the mail addressed to the navy or any other department of this government it is high time to stop the childish system of protesting and get down to brass tacks and big guns. Unless ample apology is tendered forthwith and the offender express a sincere intention of not repeating the outrage the United States should not hesitate to use every power at its command to compel respect.

The effrontery of opening government mail cannot be condoned by any subterfuge of the censor, and the circumstances lead to the belief that the case reported yesterday was not the only one coming to the attention of the government. The mere fact that the president, through the Postoffice department, had authorized United States transports plying between Pacific Coast ports and the Philippines to carry mail with an express order that they avoid Canadian and British ports carries with it the insinuation that Wilson had previous knowledge of the violation of government mail and was seeking to placate the enemy by circumventing the censors at a sacrifice of public pride and honor. If Wilson is so obsessed with a peace policy that he does not believe in invoking the big guns of the American navy, then why does he not resort to the next best form of retaliation by placing an embargo on all munitions of war and the raw materials entering into their construction? This would bring the insolent enemy to a sense of right and teach other belligerents that the United States must be respected.

It certainly has come to a pretty pass when Italy, the bankrupt and weakest nation of Europe, flaunts the red flag of rebellion in the face of Uncle Sam by openly declaring that she is going to back up the British blacklist with a few additions of her own and that any American firm shipping goods without first securing a license from Rome will have to bear the consequences. Uncle Sam has not only been humiliated with numerous slaps in the cheeks, but he has been buffeted and knocked around more mercilessly than any slapjack artist of the low comedy stage.

NEGLECT OF SOUTHERN NYE COUNTY

IT is timely to call attention of voters to the fact that this county has latent potentialities outside of the mining game that are begging for the notice of a board of county commissioners capable of grasping the resources that are in the awakening stage. Nye county needs more attention than it has received, and this attention should be directed to the development of the underflow of water. Down through the length of the Amargosa Valley small farms are beginning to adorn the landscape. The verdure of alfalfa is tinging the grey perspective and the presence of the settler attests the fact that this little known section possesses attractions that one day will make it a perfect garden of Eden. The soil is as rich as any that can be found in the state and all that is needed is some encouragement from the men at the courthouse who are kept busy in devising ways of increasing the taxes and means of spending the receipts without having anything to show for the outlay. The soil is in evidence and the only element missing is the presence of a flow of water sufficient to extend the irrigated area. The investment of \$1000 in a power drill capable of sinking to a depth of 1000 feet would bring ample returns to requite the county for undertaking the work. For six months the owner of a well boring outfit has been advertising for sale a first class drill suitable for the experiment. This equipment, which cost the owner \$1750, was offered Nye county at less than 50 per cent of its wholesale value, but the tender was rejected in spite of the fact that the commissioners said they were willing to engage in water boring in the eastern and southern end of this county. The commissioners mean well enough, but they lack initiative and the determination to do something to bring results. Their hesitation was due to a desire to let the other fellow do something. This vacillation has lost the county valuable rights, which are being absorbed by stockmen whose herds are creeping in from the south, while the hardy pioneer settlers have to struggle alone to maintain a precarious foothold. Had the present board of commissioners acted promptly they would have tapped the underflow for the benefit of the small farmer and through the intense cultivation that was bound to follow the county would have been enriched to an extent scarcely dreamed of.

THE STROLLER

BY L. B. (LETON) BALLEET

For some years I have occasionally written short articles for publication in various papers under this head. Some have been intended to amuse, and some to make the readers think. Never are they intended to offend. Friendship comes from kindness, and I think I have many friends among the readers of this paper, and I hope to make more. If my views differ from yours, I grant you the right to your views just as freely as I claim the right to my own. If your politics differ from mine, you have every right to your own convictions, the same as I have to mine, and I will still be your friend, without regard to politics, religion, race, color, nationality or occupation. I shall pay for this space at advertising rates and thus be sure it will not be crowded out by more important matter.

EFFICIENCY VS. SYSTEMATIZERS IN PUBLIC OFFICE

A man may be an excellent man, until some one comes along who can improve on his methods, then he is no longer excellent. A man may be a good workman until some one comes along who can do better work at less expense, then he is no longer valuable. Following an old or established custom is not efficiency. When a man thinks that he has accomplished all that can be accomplished, and that he is the name of perfection, and can learn nothing more, he admits that he has reached the limit of his usefulness, and that man should be replaced with a broader and more competent man who can progress, and can make further improvements. The business world demands progress and improvement. No business can succeed when it gets into a rut, or cannot improve.

Nye county is in business—every voter is a partner in the business—we might say a stockholder in the county. If I tell you, as an efficiency engineer, that your officers are inefficient, and that by their incompetency they are wasting a hundred thousand dollars a year, you naturally sit up and take notice, because that \$100,000 comes from your pockets as taxes. If you owned a factory that had \$100,000,000 assets, would you pick out for the management men who would waste \$100,000 a year? They may be honest—but you wouldn't want them to run your business if they couldn't save that \$100,000 for you. You are paying the bill.

When you dump your tax money into the hands of incompetent men you can expect nothing but high expenses. It is like trying to fill a barrel with water that is leaking between every stave. If you run the water in faster than it leaks away you may get the barrel filled, but you are putting in TWICE THE AMOUNT that would be necessary when you measure the amount against what can be accomplished. EFFICIENCY in office management can never be accomplished by bookkeepers, fake systematizers, and business doctors. These men may be honest—but they are not efficiency engineers. They can fill forms, write checks, and keep books. ANY MAN CAN TELL HOW MUCH IT COSTS to run an office—but they cannot tell you how much more it is costing than it should cost.

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The tax rate in Nye county is double what it should be, and as an efficiency engineer I make that statement. I would take a contract to handle every bit of county business, pay all salaries and expenses, for one half the tax levy, and put up a bond to do it.

If I tell you that the office of SHERIFF AND ASSESSOR is the keystone of county efficiency, you must realize the importance of that office. Making arrests of lawbreakers takes but a few minutes' time, four or five times a month—and is the least of the sheriff's duties.

That office needs an efficiency engineer, who can point out the needs of the county, and keep such a mathematical accounting of costs and what it should cost, that he can advise the County Commissioners and Grand Jury competently upon the subject, and thus reduce the tax levy.

The office of SHERIFF AND ASSESSOR cost this county at various times from \$30,000 to \$50,000 a year, in salaries of deputies, mileage, automobile hire, traveling expenses, commissions and other perquisites of the office, including office expense, maintenance of the jail, etc. THIS IS TOO MUCH.

If any business that handled \$250,000 a year (tax collections) used one fifth of its entire income in one office, the stockholders would rebel.

I intend to point out some of the leaks of county money, that the bookkeepers and systematizers are allowing to continue.

The office of SHERIFF AND ASSESSOR is two offices held by one man. The man draws a salary as SHERIFF, TWO-STROLLER.

The man draws a commission on taxes collected as ASSESSOR.

It has long been the custom in Nye county for the SHERIFF to swear in a few extra deputy sheriffs to do the

assessing. These deputy sheriffs do the assessor's work, and ARE PAID BY THE COUNTY AS DEPUTY SHERIFFS when they are in fact "deputy assessors." Thus the Sheriff's office stands all the expense, and the ASSESSOR gets the commission.

This may be lawful, but it is not what was intended. The commission was allowed by law, to carry the expense of the assessing work. I want to ask the taxpayers and voters this question: IF THE COUNTY PAYS SALARIES for deputy Sheriffs to do the work, what is the object of the commission allowance, which is greater than the Sheriff's salary?

There are many voters who think they are not taxpayers, but it is the working man that pays the taxes. Your grocer, butcher, baker, merchant, and tailor pay taxes; so does the farmer who raises the meat and vegetables, and the price you pay for living includes enough of your pay check to pay his taxes, expenses, and give him his regular profit. A tax levy of \$250,000, upon the county, means that \$8 out of every \$100 you earn goes for taxes, and is added on to the prices you pay for what you buy. A payroll of a quarter of a million dollars a month to workers of the county means \$20,000 a month eaten up by taxes. If the workers were not here the merchants wouldn't be here, hence it must come from the workers' pay checks. Every worker who draws \$125 a month loses \$60 a year in taxes. An efficient Sheriff and Assessor, with a good board of county Commissioners, can save you at least half of it.

I can save it for you, and will save it for you, if elected to that office. You, Mr. and Mrs. Voter, are paying the bills, and it is up to you, whether you want to pay \$200,000 to \$250,000 a year in taxes or half the sum for the same work.

(To be continued.)

FINED FOR CELEBRATING (By Associated Press.)

THE HAGUE, Sept. 18.—The Belgian town of Lierre has been fined 50,000 marks because, on the occasion of the recent national fete, some of its inhabitants had hoisted a big Belgian tricolor on the top of an oak tree. In order to defend the tree against German assaults they had surrounded it with barbed wire.

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